



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,856	10/19/2005	Soon-Jo Woo	4820-010	6559
20575 7590 06/25/2007 MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			EXAMINER NG, EUNICE	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/25/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/553,856	Applicant(s) WOO, SOON-JO	
	Examiner Eunice Ng	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Figures 4 and 6-12 contain blurred or illegible text and images, possibly due to color photographs or drawings. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Color photographs and color drawings are not accepted unless a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2) is granted. Any such petition must be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h), three sets of color drawings or color photographs, as appropriate, and, unless already present, an amendment to include the following language as the first paragraph of the brief description of the drawings section of the specification:

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Color photographs will be accepted if the conditions for accepting color drawings and black and white photographs have been satisfied. See 37 CFR 1.84(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2626

3. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "such as" in the 5th, 7th, and last lines of the claims, respectively, renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "special" in claim 5 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "special" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kugimiya et al. ("Kugimiya"), US Patent 5,088,039.

Regarding claim 1, Kugimiya teaches a syntax analysis method for analyzing syntax and describing the grammatical function of the syntax...the method comprising:

analyzing morphemes wherein if a sentence desired to be analyzed is input, the contents of morphemes are analyzed in units of polymorphemes according to the morpheme dictionary program, and after selecting an analysis case of a morpheme appropriate to the input data among morpheme analysis data by polymorpheme, preprocessing is performed; and analyzing syntax wherein with the analyzed morphemes, partial structures of a sentence are first established according to grammatical roles stored in the grammar rule database, and then, by using the subcategorization database, the entire structure is established and by calculating the weighted value of each structure, a most appropriate optimum case is determined and output (Abstract, Kugimiya teaches a dictionary look up and morpheme analyzer, syntax analyzer for analyzing a syntactic structure of the morpheme array provided by the look up and morpheme analyzer with dictionary and grammatical rules, a converter for converting the syntactic structure analyzed by the syntax analyzer into a corresponding syntactic structure and generator for generating a translation in accordance with the syntactic structure of the target language received from the converter referring to the information obtained by looking up the dictionary; Figure 1-3 illustrate the dictionary lookup, morpheme analysis, syntax analysis, meaning analysis, and context analysis steps).

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akers et al., US Patent 6,278,967

Regarding claim 4, Akers teaches a natural language retrieval method for retrieving documents (sentences) by inputting a natural language question using a syntax analysis method based on a mobile configuration concept, the method comprising:

analyzing a document in which sentence analysis information of a document that is an object of retrieval is stored in a sentence information database by a syntax analysis method based on a mobile configuration concept wherein a subcategorization database, ...and then, by using the subcategorization database, the entire structure is established; analyzing question syntax in which in the document information database, if a question in a natural language is input, the syntax of the question is first analyzed according to the syntax analysis method based on the mobile configuration concept, the syntax analysis result is dissected in units of words according to syntax information, the interrogative sentence type of a question is captured, and a dissected, detailed question is determined (Akers teaches at col. 10, ll. 13-30, “preparser interprets... a question mark”; at col. 6, ll. 56— col. 7, line 8, teaches classification/subcategorization; see also col. 2-3, “tree structure”);

retrieving a document in which the role of the tag of the detailed question determined in a sentence analysis dictionary is converted into a tag for retrieval according to the desired interrogative sentence type, a word having the converted tag for retrieval is retrieved in the sentence analysis dictionary, and a ranking is calculated based on the frequency of retrieval; and displaying a result including retrieved words, sentences including tags for retrieval, and the contents of a document including the sentences (col. 16, ll. 51-61).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and

Art Unit: 2626

any intervening claims. Claim 3 is dependent upon allowable claim 2 and would thus be allowable based on rewritten claim 2.

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US Patent 4,931,936 (Kugimiya et al.), JP 2003-030184 (Tajima et al.), JP 06-035958 (Ozawa et al.), JP 04-039769 (Kawai et al.) and JP 06-332938 (Tokunaga et al.).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eunice Ng whose telephone number is 571-272-2854. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

6/10/07
EN


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600